

Padma awards for the year 2020

November 9, 2021

In news- The President of India presented the Padma awards for the year 2020 -2021.

Key updates-

- For the year 2020, the list comprises seven Padma Vibhushans, 10 Padma Bhushans and 102 Padma Shri awards.
- Of the total awardees, 29 were women and one was transgender, while 16 were posthumous awardees.

History and relevance-

- The Government of India **instituted two civilian awards- Bharat Ratna & Padma Vibhushan in 1954.**
- The latter had three classes namely Pahela Varg, Dusra Varg and Tisra Varg.
- These were subsequently renamed as Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri vide Presidential Notification issued on January 8, 1955.

About Padma awards-

- The Padma Awards are **one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.**
- **The Awards are given in three categories:**
 1. Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service).
 2. Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and
 3. Padma Shri (distinguished service).
- The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.

- It was instituted in 1954.
 - These awards are announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day except for brief interruption(s) during the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997.
 - All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards.
- **However, Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.**
- Though the award is normally not conferred posthumously, in highly deserving cases, the Government could consider such a recommendation.
- A higher category of Padma award can be conferred on a person only where a period of at least five years has elapsed since conferment of the earlier Padma award.
- However, in highly deserving cases, a relaxation can be made by the Awards Committee.
- The awards are **presented by the President of India usually in the month of March/April every year** where the awardees are presented a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.
- **The names of the awardees are published in the Gazette of India** on the day of the presentation ceremony.
- The total number of awards to be given in a year (excluding posthumous awards and to NRI/foreigners/OCIs) **should not be more than 120.**
- The award does not amount to a title and cannot be used as a suffix or prefix to the awardees' name.
- The Padma Awards are **conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee**, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
- **The Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary** and

includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members.

- The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.